

Message Text

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ACTION INR-11

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5749

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY BIOGRAPHIC DETAIL ON JOHN L. MENADUE,
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF DEPT OF PRIME MINISTER

REF: CANBERRA 5637

1. IN ADDITION TO BIO INFO IN REFTEL, FOL ARE ADDITIONAL
DETAILS ON BACKGROUND OF MR. JOHN L. MENADUE, SECRETARY-
DESIGNATE OF DEPT OF PRIME MINISTER.

2. FOLLOWING GRADUATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, MENADUE
JOINED THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS IN 1957 AND
TRANSFERRED TO THE TREASURY IN 1959. HE BECAME PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO GOUGH WHITLAM, THEN DEPUTY LEADER OF LABOR OPPOSITION, IN
1960 AND SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY TO 1967. IN 1966 HE UN-
SUCCESSFULLY CONTESTED NSW FEDERAL SEAT OF HUME (HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ELECTORATE ADJOINING CANBERRA), RECEIVING 42
PERCENT OF VOTE IN SWING CONSTITUENCY. HE JOINED NEWS
LIMITED PUBLISHING ORGANIZATION IN 1967, BECOMING GENERAL
MANAGER OF THE GROUP AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT BY WHITLAM
AS SECRETARY OF THE DEPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER. HE WAS NAMED
BY WHITLAM TO MEMBERSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AT
ITS INCEPTION IN 1973.

3. MENADUE, ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER,
WILL TAKE UP HIS POSITION AS SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF DEPT OF
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PRIME MINISTER ON SEPT 23, TO BECOME SECRETARY AS FROM FEB 1, 1975.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON
MENADUE APPOINTMENT SINCE IT WAS MADE. PRO-DLP WEEKLY
PUBLICATION, NEWS WEEKLY, COMMENTED AUG 28 THAT APPOINTMENT
OF MENADUE IS BLATANTLY POLITICAL, IN VIEW OF HIS PREVIOUS
CONNECTION WITH ALP AS CANDIDATE FOR FEDERAL SEAT IN 1966
ELECTIONS. END COMMENT.
GREEN

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